

**RESCHEDULED MEETING
MENOMINEE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 8, 2010 - 5:00 P.M.
TRIBAL OFFICE BOARDROOM**

1. Roll Call and Call to Order:

Chairman Douglas Cox called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Roll call was taken with a quorum present. MEMBERS PRESENT: Douglas Cox, Craig Corn, Renita Wilber, Darren Zhuckkahosee, and Gary Frechette. MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeremy Pyatskowit. Also present: Darrell Wilber, Melissa Pitzl, Donald Reiter, Brett Hoffman, Walter Cox, Richard Annamitta, Michelle Frechette, Joanne Gauthier, Norbert Miller, Jean Cox, and Linda Peters, Recorder.

2. Moment of Silence.

Chairman Douglas Cox requested a moment of silence.

3. Special Rules for Meeting.

Chairman Cox reminded the audience that the Commission Rules state that the public comment period allows each individual three minutes to voice their comments and/or concerns. During the meeting, Commissioners will speak first on each agenda item, and then public comment will be taken and each individual is limited to three minutes each.

4. Approval of Regular Minutes dated January 4, 2010; Emergency Meeting Minutes dated January 13, 2010; and Public Hearing Minutes dated January 18, 2010.

January 4, 2010

There were no corrections necessary.

Motion made by Craig Corn to approve the regular meeting minutes dated January 4, 2010. Second was by Renita Wilber. All those in favor of the motion signify by raising your hand. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent (Pyatskowit).

January 13, 2010

There were no corrections necessary.

Motion made by Renita Wilber to approve the emergency meeting minutes dated January 13, 2010. Second was by Darren Zhuckkahosee. All those in favor of the motion signify by raising your hand. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent (Pyatskowit).

January 19, 2010

There were no corrections necessary.

Motion made by Renita Wilber to approve the public hearing minutes dated January 19, 2010. Second was by Craig Corn. All those in favor of the motion signify by raising your hand. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent (Pyatskowit).

5. Public Comment Period.

Chairman Cox requested to have sign in sheets available at future meetings.

MELISSA PITZL – *“I was going to ask a couple of questions, and (make) a couple of statements. The first one (I was just curious), but you already answered it so; you guys are going to start having sign in sheets?”*

DOUGLAS COX – *“There is nothing in our bylaws that requires that, but I think that it is a good idea, and I will try and keep us on that.”*

MELISSA PITZL – *“And I just wanted to say I have received a letter from the Menominee Tribal Police Department. In October I was here, and I was illegally removed from this meeting on the request of this Commission. And I had gotten an apology letter from the Tribal Police (finally in the last two weeks), and within that letter; I did receive an apology. Also, cited were a number of laws that were violated due my removal, basically my personal rights; most importantly, my right for the freedom of speech. There was an investigation, and basically what was found was that they listened to the tape of the meeting; they looked at lot of different statements from people that were here; took that data, and came up with the fact that my rights were violated and so I will be submitting that to our Legislature for further review.*

But I wanted to bring that information to the Commission first so that you all knew that was the case, and I am going to ask for the removal of Doug Cox as you were the one that asked for my removal from this meeting, and you gave the officer false information in order to achieve that. And I believe the people that were present here at that meeting; you did want them to hear what I had to say; which was only data and facts. I'd like an apology; if you would provide that today (in a letter), I am more than happy to accept that from Doug Cox – Chairman for my illegal removal from the meeting, and your abuse of power. And I am going to ask this Commission one last time: I would like you guys to do the right thing. You guys know (you know) you did this illegally. You know that you didn't have a quorum when those decisions were made this last time. You know that you violated the posting ordinance, and you know that at that time there was such a room full of tribal enrolled people here that were begging you not to take those things away from their families, and you disregarded all of them. You know in your hearts (I know you do), but because of the relationships that you have on that Legislature, you manipulated the system. But again, I am not going away, and I'm sorry, when all is said and done you can not look at the law. What our ordinances say; what your bylaws said at that time. So again, I'm giving you a chance as a Commission to put those regulations back to what they were. Give the descendants back that time that you took away from them and their rights away.”

DOUGLAS COX: *“Your three minutes are up, Melissa; thank you for your comments.”*

NORBERT MILLER – *“Mr. Chairman, if this individual sitting here accusing this Commission of violating her right to speak to this Commission, and I find it really hard that this individual has been here several times disruptive in these meetings, and this have been an ongoing thing since I have been going to these meetings for over a year, and she has been very disruptive, very forward, and very demanding, and that is not the way the system operates. It operates under Robert's Rules of Order, and if you are being disruptive, you have the right to remove them or cancel the meeting.*

You do not owe her an apology. You don't owe anyone an apology, and for the police to give her an apology on this issue, I think that they are wrong themselves. You have the right to remove anyone that gets disruptive in these meetings, and that goes for the Tribal Legislative body. Any tribal member that comes in here and disrupts these meetings has to leave or you can be removed Doug: you have a right to remove anybody that, and if this individual continues to do it; just follow the same procedure.

I am not going to sit here and listen to some individual that is going to dictate to you; just because she's got a conflict of interest with her descendant children. I am going to sit here and fight for Menominee Tribal issues, enrolled member issues. That is all I got to say about this Mr. Chairman."

MICHELLE FRECHETTE – *"I would like again to request since I see on your agenda is amendment to Ordinance 99-01, in lieu of the mess you were in 12 months ago to change the ordinance to say that that two non-residents in the make up of your Commission, which would alleve a lot of your problems."*

CRAIG CORN – *"I would like to bring it to your attention that we adhere to our meeting rules. That it doesn't get out of hand, and doesn't take anybody's time. Thank you Chairman Cox."*

6. Amendment to 99-01: Conservation Commission.

Walter Cox updated the Commission that the Conservation Department would be the lead department in the Natural Resource Workgroup to present amendments to Ordinance 99-01. The Workgroup would determine if the wanted input from the Conservation Commission.

Brett Hoffman would like to submit his comments to Marcie Hawpetoss-Tribal Administration, who is the facilitator of the workgroup. He would like to see some qualification requirements; that no Commissioner has been convicted of a felony, and that the Commissioners should be subjected to drug testing, and that there is not residency requirements.

7. Hunting and Trapping Regulations.

The Commission discussed their next step for updating the regulations which will expire at the end of 2010. Donald Reiter informed the Commission that his department can compile the deer, bear, game birds, and pellet count data; and bring this to the next meeting.

The Commission agreed that the current decision tree had no place for the Menominee voice, and they need to hear the voices to make valid decisions. The Commission reviewed some of the grammatical errors. Incidental catches should be reported immediately to the game wardens

The Commission determined that they will not lower the age limit to 10 year old.

The Commission was reminded that bears, wolves, and coyotes are taking out the deer population and they need to consider these predators in their regulations.

Gary Frechette reiterated the following: *"First of all, this Commission never said it was taking descendants out of the woods. Descendants can go in the woods 24-7 all year round. So this Commission never said they would take away descendants rights away totally. They can be in the woods 24-7, 365 days a year doing something out there. And another thing, my changes had nothing to do with data. Mine had to do with incidental catches of fur trapping, and the other was a clerical error; so my changes that I had tonight I didn't need data. The data was the clerical. My thoughts that any live and dead incidental catches should be brought to the Conservation Department immediately; that is why my changes were proposed tonight. The other point is last year: 435 deer were killed by enrolled members, but there were 935 Menominee Tribal's not getting any deer at all."*

8. Address Vacant Commissioner Seat.

There is a vacancy on the Commission and another seat will become vacant in June. The Ordinance states that the Legislature has 60 days from the notification date to fill the vacancy.

Motion made by Gary Frechette to notify the Menominee Tribal Legislature that there is a vacancy on the Commission. Second was by Darren Zhuckkahosee. All those in favor of the motion raise your hand. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent (Pyatskowit).

10. Other Business.

Melissa Pitzl brought to the Commission's attention on Managed Forest Lands and the boundaries. Chairman Cox informed her that she needs to speak directly to the Conservation Department about the game wardens knowledge on the land boundaries, and any harassment from game wardens.

Gary Frechette: *"Sounds like an enforcement issue and that should be at the Enforcement Committee. Second, we are not the boss of the Conservation Wardens we are a Commission their boss is the Tribal Legislature and whatever grounds they have. We are not the boss of the wardens or anyone. They are an enforcement agency. There is no connection to us. We are not the boss of them."*

Craig Corn: *"That is a personnel matter and that is not our duty as a Commission."*

The request for a referendum was presented to the Legislature to bring clarity and finality on who should hunt and fish on the Reservation. An ad hoc committee was formed to respond to this request and has not been brought back to the Legislative table. This will become an agenda item for next month's meeting.

The Commission would like to inform everyone that they are not trying to keep everyone out of the woods. They are just trying to protect our natural resources. This will become an agenda item for next month.

Joanne Gauthier informed the Commission that there is a Menominee Conservation Restoration Club meeting to be held in the basement at Miller's Store on Saturday, February 20, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

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11. Adjournment.

Motion made by Craig Corn to adjourn the meeting. Second was by Renita Wilber. All those in favor of the motion signify by raising your hand. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent (Pyatskowit).

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Linda Lee Peters, Recorder
Recording Clerk – Chairman's Office